

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASDHDC 9564

INFO OAU CONFERENCE COLLECTIVE

AMEMBMASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 1625

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAU

SUBJECT: JAPAN, WESTGERMANY SCORED FOR LINKS WITH SOUTH AFRICA

SUMMARY: OAU CM TOOK UP REPORTS ON SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFIRCA JUNE 28, WITH JAPAN AND WEST GERMANY EMERGING AS PRINCIPAL TARGETS. DISCUSSION OF SANCTIONS-BREAKING BY OAU MEMBER STATES WAS NON SPECIFIC AND LOW KEY. END SUMMARY.

1. POLITICAL COMMITTEE JUNE 28 TURNED TO OAU REPPORTS ON SANCTIONS AGAINST RHOEDSIA AND SOUTH AFRICA, FOCUSING ON ALLEGED VIOLATIONS BY JAPAN AND EST GERMANY.

2. JAPANESE WERE CRITICIZED FOR ALLEGEDLY IMPORTING CHROME FROM RHODESIA AND RE-EXPORTING IT TO US IN WAKE OF US REPEAL OF BYRD AMENDMENT. CHARGE AGAINST JAPAN WAS APPARENTLY MADE BY NIGERIAN CHARIMAN OF UN APARTHEID COMMITTEE (HARRIMAN) IN HIS REPORT, AND JAPAN EXPECTED TO BE CONDEMNED IN OAU RESOLUTION.

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3. WEST GERMAN NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA WAS ATTACKED IN BOTH POLITICAL COMMITTEE AND PLENARY DESPITE LOBBYING EFFORT BY GERMAN AMBASSADOR TO ETHIOPIA WHO MADE SPECIAL TRIP HERE IN ATTEMPT TO HEAD OFF DEBATE ON THIS TOPIC. LIBYAN UN PERMREP MANSOUR KIKHIA REPORTEDLY RAISED OBJECTION IN PLENARY TO INCLUSION OF FRG RESPOSE TO CHARGES AS ATTACHEMENT TO

OAU REPORT, BUT GERMAN RIGHT TO REPLY WAS DEFENDED BY
SYR ETEKI. ESPITE THIS SMALL PROCEDURAL VICTORY,
GERMANS EXPECTED TO BE TARGET OF CONDEMNATORY RESOLUTION.
(COMMENT: LIBYANS HAVE SO FAR PLAYED IMPORTANT ROLE IN
ANTI-WESTERN MOVES AT CONFERENCE, WITH PLENARY ACTION
AGAINST WEST GERMANS REPETITION OF EARLIER SIMILARLY
HOSTILE MOVES.)

4. WHILE FRENCH COOPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA APPARENTLY
NOT DISCUSSED IN DETAIL, FRANCE ALSO EXPECTED TO BE CONDEMNED
AGAIN BY OAU.

5. POLITICAL COMMITTEE ALSO DISCUSSED QUESTION OF SANCTIONS
VIOLATIONS BY OAU MEMBER STATES. OAU ASST SEC GEN
ONU STATED THAT COMMITTEE REALIZES SOME AFRICAN STATES
(BOTSWANA, LESOTHO, AND SWAZILAND) HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE
TO TRADE WITH SOUTH AFRICA, BUT URGED THAT DISTINCTION BE
MADE BETWEEN THESE STATES AND OTHERS WHICH CONTINUE TO
DEAL WITH RHODESIAN AND SOUTH AFRICA. HE REMARKED THAT
OAU HAD NO RIGHT TO POINT FINGER AT NON-AFRICAN VIOLATORS
OF SANCTION WHEN CERTAIN OAU MEMBER STATES TRADE
WITH SOUTH AFRICA. SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO BE CREATED TO
STUDY THIS PROBLEM, WITH MEMBERSHIP STILL TO BE DECIDED.
(COMMENT: THIS WOULD APPEAR TO SIGNIFY NO SUBSTANTIVE
OAU ACTION LIKELY ON THIS ISSUE.)

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6. COMMENT: CONDEMNATIONS OF JAPAN AND WEST GERMANY
EVIDENTLY NOT VERY IMPASSIONED, TO EXTENT THAT ONE
RELIABLE DELEGATE SOURCE REMARKED THAT NOTHING
INTERESTING OR SIGNIFICANT HAD OCCURRED DURING PLENARY
DEBATE. STEIGMAN

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